CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

sub D1

1. A method for providing textual information in a network environment, the method comprising:

receiving a request via a network for text-editable textual information;

converting said text-editable textual information into a non-text-editable textual format on line upon receiving said request; and

sending said non-text-editable textual information via said network.

2. A method according to claim 1 wherein said converting step comprises converting said text-editable textual information into a non-text-editable graphical representation of said text-editable textual information.

3. A method according to claim 2 wherein said converting step comprises converting said text-editable textual information into said non-text-editable graphical representation wherein said graphical representation comprises at least one hyperlink.

4. A method according to claim 1 and further comprising displaying said non-text-editable textual information via a computer terminal display.

5. A method according to claim 1 wherein said receiving step comprises receiving said request from a computer terminal connected to said network at a server connected to said network, wherein said converting step is performed at said server, and wherein said sending step comprises said server sending said non-text-editable textual information to said computer terminal via said network.

6. A method for providing graphical information in a network environment, the method comprising:

receiving a request via a network for a graphical image;

rendering said graphical image into a plurality of sub-images on line upon receiving said request, wherein said sub-images are displayable in a manner that is visually perceived to substantially resemble said graphical image; and

displaying said plurality of sub-images in said manner on a display via a video buffer wherein said video buffer comprises no more than one of said sub-images in its entirety at any given time.

7. A method according to claim 6 wherein said rendering step comprises rendering said graphical image into a plurality of color separations of said graphical image.

8. A method according to claim 6 wherein said rendering step comprises rendering said graphical image into a plurality of sub-images wherein any of said plurality of sub-images comprises an interference pattern.

9. A method according to claim 6 and further comprising sending said plurality of sub-images via said network.

10. A method according to claim 6 wherein said displaying step comprises displaying said plurality of sub-images via a computer terminal display.

11. A method according to claim 6 wherein said receiving step comprises receiving said request from a computer terminal connected to said network at a server connected to said network,

wherein said rendering step is performed at said server, wherein said method further comprises sending said plurality of sub-images to said computer terminal via said network, and wherein said displaying step comprises displaying said plurality of sub-images via a computer terminal display.

12. A method for limiting the operational life of software in a network environment, the method comprising:

providing a software application with an associated password to a client via a network;

receiving a request for information from said software application via said network, said request comprising said associated password;

authenticating said password;

providing said information to said software application via said network while said associated password is valid; and

invalidating said password coincident with an invalidation event.

13. A method according to claim 12 wherein said invalidating step comprises invalidating said password at a predetermined time.

14. A method according to claim 12 wherein said invalidating step comprises invalidating said password after a predetermined elapsed time from when said request was received.

15. A method according to claim 12 wherein said invalidating step comprises invalidating said password upon the detection of a loss of communication with said client.

16. A method according to claim 12 wherein said providing step comprises providing said software application in the form of an applet.

17. A method according to claim 12 wherein said providing step comprises providing said password assembled with said software application.

18. A method according to claim 12 wherein said providing step comprises generating said password at a server upon receiving said request at said server.

19. A network-based textual information system comprising:

a computer terminal operative to send a request via a network for text-editable textual information; and

a server operative to receive said request, convert said text-editable textual information into a non-text-editable textual format on line upon receiving said request, and send said non-text-editable textual information to said computer terminal via said network.

20. A system according to claim 19 wherein said non-text-editable textual format comprises a non-text-editable graphical representation of said text-editable textual information.

21. A system according to claim 20 wherein said non-text-editable graphical representation comprises at least one hyperlink.

22. A system according to claim 19 wherein said server further comprises a first storage area that is inaccessible to said computer terminal for storing said text-editable textual information and a second storage area that is accessible to said computer terminal for storing said non-text-editable textual information.

23. A network-based graphical information system comprising:

a computer terminal operative to send a request via a network for a graphical image; and

a server operative to receive said request, render said graphical image into a plurality of sub-images on line upon receiving said request, wherein said sub-images are displayable in a manner that is visually perceived to substantially resemble said graphical image, and send said sub-images to said computer terminal via said network.

24. A system according to claim 23 wherein said computer terminal is operative to display said plurality of sub-images in said manner on a display via a video buffer wherein said video buffer comprises no more than one of said sub-images in its entirety at any given time.

25. A system according to claim 23 wherein said plurality of sub-images comprises a plurality of color separations of said graphical image.

26. A system according to claim 23 wherein said any of said plurality of sub-images comprises an interference pattern.

27. A network-based software authentication system comprising:

a server comprising:

a password generator;

password validation apparatus;

a restricted-access storage area;

a software application; and

invalidation apparatus;

wherein said server is operative to:

a) cause said password generator to generate a password;

b) [redacted]ovide said software application wit[redacted]d password to a client via a network;

c) receive a request for information from said software application via said network, said request comprising said associated password;

d) authenticate said password using said password validation apparatus;

e) provide said information to said software application via said network while said associated password is valid; and

f) invalidate said password using said invalidation apparatus coincident with an invalidation event.

28. A system according to claim 27 wherein said invalidation event comprises the arrival of a predetermined time.

29. A system according to claim 27 wherein said invalidation event comprises the elapsing of a predetermined elapsed time from when said request was received.

30. A system according to claim 27 wherein said invalidation event comprises the detection of a loss of communication with said client.

31. A system according to claim 31 wherein said software application comprises an applet.

32. A system according to claim 27 wherein said password is assembled with said software application.

33. A system according to claim 27 wherein said password is generated at said server upon receiving said request at said server.